

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE IRISH CENTRE ON 10th DECEMBER 1985

PRESENT: T. Dunne, Fr. C. Malone, O.M.I., Miss M. Kenny, A. Coyle,
J. Davis, P. McAuley, T. Mangan, J. Myers, F. Swan, J. Troy,
G. O'Flynn.

APOLOGIES: Fr. Smith, Mrs. E. Kehoe.

IN ATTENDANCE: P. Keegan.

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted on a proposal by J. Davis, seconded by P. McAuley. Some members complained that they only received their copies on the morning of the meeting. Others received theirs a week earlier.

MATTERS ARISING

A letter was received from Fr. Smith tendering his resignation from the Committee because of pressure of work. The resignation was accepted with regret and it was decided to ask Archbishop Bowen to nominate a replacement.

The Social Worker promised for the hostels is still not yet available. Fr. Malone will discuss the problem with Fr. Ryan.

Receipts from the Fr. Malone Parachute Jump now amount to £4,600 and from the Una Murphy Walk £980.00

Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann have ceased their Sunday morning sessions in the Douglas Hyde Lounge. Other arrangements for live music have been made but results are still not good.

The undersirable tenant has now left Conway House.

The London County Board of the GAA has been invited to a meeting regarding the proposal for a levy on All Ireland Final tickets.

HOSTELS AND WELFARE

Numbers of applications for welfare are down, but the problems being encountered are greater.

ACCOUNTS

P. Keegan presented accounts for the nine months to 30th September, 1985.

Income and Expenditure accounts for both Catering and Bar showed unsatisfactory results, but it was expected that the results for the next quarter would show a big improvement.

It was considered that wages figures were too high and too many casuals were being employed. The present staff comprises Mrs. D'Arcy, Noel D'Arcy, John Woulfe, Ronan Gallagher and the Chef.

Continuation Sheet 2. - Accounts

There is no full-time cleaner at the moment and the cleaning is being done by casuals.

A member reported that casual bar staff have lunch during the Sunday morning sessions. They are not entitled to this.

P. Keegan is now carrying out a weekly monitoring service on the employment of casual labour, the whole system of which needs re-organising.

Other points of interest to emerge from the report;

- a. The Welfare Department after including grants shows a loss;
- b. Gross profit on bars is 49% and on catering 45%;
- c. Loss on bands for Douglas Hyde Lounge amounted to £2,514.00;
- d. Donations amounted to £22,516.00;
- e. Car Raffle profit £12,600.00;
- f. Final retention re McNamara Hall £11,000.00;
- g. Breweries wrote off £22,548.00 interest charges;
- h. Leasehold property referred to is Welfare Department Office which is built over the railway tunnel. Ground Rent paid to British Rail is £500.00 p.a.
- j. McNamara Hall accounts for 50% of bar takings.
Kennedy Hall accounts for 15% of bar takings.
Douglas Hyde Lounge and Small Lounge account for balance.

The Chairman proposed a special meeting of the Finance sub-Committee to review the reports and it was agreed to hold one in January.

T. Mangan proposed the adoption of the report coupled with a note of thanks to P. Keegan. Both were unanimously agreed.

DIRECTORS REPORT

1. Refurbishment of 51/52 Camden Square

Fr. Malone reported on meetings that had taken place between representatives of ANCO (This is an Irish Government training scheme for employment). These meetings had been set up through the contacts at the Irish Embassy following the visit to the Centre of Mr. Ruairi Quinn, Minister for Labour. It was confirmed that ANCO were prepared to get involved in a project to refurbish 51/52 Camden Square. This would mean that the Day Care Centre in conjunction with the Youth could use the basement section and that the top two stories could be made suitable for accommodation. The details of the scheme are currently being worked out and Mr. Liam Martin is drawing up some plans. A costing will have to be made for materials. It is understood that while labour and professional services would be free that the Centre will have to find money for materials.

Continuation Sheet 3. - Directors Report

2. Cash Flow - Materials 51/52 Camden Square

If the Centre is to come up with capital for materials it will be necessary to make new arrangements regarding the debt. In regard to this our Auditor, Tony Beatty, is enquiring about the possibility of getting a mortgage to be paid back over a 15-25 year period. If this can be arranged the total which would be outstanding to the bank of £33,000 could be paid back, hopefully for a lesser sum. We would be able to make repayments on a new loan which would be necessary if we had to buy materials for the refurbishment of 51/52 Camden Square. So far talks are going well. We would also be launching a special "ad hoc" fund raising campaign for this capital.

3. We are on target for the repayment of £55,000 to the Bank of Ireland at the end of the year. At this stage the third part of the agreement comes into force and the outstanding sum will have to be repaid with interest. This of course would alter if the above mortgage agreement came off.

MANAGEMENT

The Chairman welcomed Mrs. D'Arcy and informed her that costings had caused discussion and will be further discussed at a meeting in January.

A serious incident which resulted in serious personal injuries occurred outside the McNamara Hall on the occasion of a London Transport Function on 6th December. The organisers will be informed of the seriousness of the situation and warned of future conduct.

A request has been received from the Irish Republican Socialist Party for the use of a hall for a fund raising function for prisoners benefit. Fr. Malone will advise them that it is not possible to accommodate them.

Side lights in the Douglas Hyde Lounge are not working. Four contractors called in did not turn up.

It was agreed to install an oil-filled electrically heated radiator in the front hall.

Mrs. D'Arcy hopes shortly to resolve amicably a problem caused by a double booking of the McNamara Hall.

It was felt that the system of on-going deposits for functions was unsatisfactory and should be discontinued.

A complaint was received about the non-availability of Irish Whisky in the Lounge Bar.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A letter was received from the London Irish Festival Working Committee requesting storage space in the garages in Murray Mews. It was suggested that this be made available to them rent free, but the initiative should have come from the General Purposes Committee of the Festival. S. Troy said he would follow it up.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14th January, 1986 at the Irish Centre.

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14.1.86